GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2973
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2016
Free National Roaming
Shirole Shri Anil;Sigriwal Shri Janardan Singh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved "One Nation-Free Roaming" facility for the mobile subscribers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the various telecom service providers thereon;

(c) whether the BSNL has already launched free national roaming facility to its customers and the other PSU, the MTNL have not followed suit; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which MTNL is likely to provide free roaming to its customers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b) One of the objectives of the National Telecom Policy, 2012, is to work towards One Nation − Free Roaming throughout the country. TRAI through the Telecommunication Tariff (55th Amendment) Order, 2013 dated 17.06.2013 reduced the ceilings for national roaming tariff and mandated the wireless access service providers to offer special roaming tariff plans in which the subscribers can avail partially free roaming, or fully free roaming in lieu of payment of fixed charges.

TRAI through the Telecommunication Tariff (60th Amendment) Order, 2015 dated 09.04.2015 reduced the ceilings for national roaming tariff for voice calls and SMS while on national roaming, which came into effect from 01.05.2015. This amendment brought about the following changes in the tariff regime for national roaming service:
<pre>
Item Ceiling tariff as per TTO (55th Amendment), 2013 Ceiling tariff as per TTO (60th Amendment), 2015
Outgoing local voice call Re.1.00 per minute Re.0.80 per minute
Outgoing long distance
(inter-circle) voice call Re.1.50 per minute Re.1.15 per minute
Incoming voice call Re.0.75 per minute Re.0.45 per minute
Outgoing local SMS Rs.1.00 per SMS Rs.0.25 per SMS
Outgoing long distance(inter circle) SMS Re.1.50 per SMS Re.0.38 per SMS

</pre>
The TTO (60th Amendment) which superseded the TTO (55th Amendment) mandated the TSPs to offer a Special Roaming Tariff Plan to its prepaid and post paid subscribers wherein incoming voice calls while on national roaming shall be free, on payment of fixed charge, if any.

(c) & (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched free incoming voice call facility to the subscribers while in National Roaming for a period of one year w.e.f. 15.06.2015 which has been extended further for one year w.e.f. 15.06.2016. MTNL has launched free incoming call facility to its out roamers in India w.e.f. 29.12.2015 and further extended upto 28.06.2017.

****